

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05

EB-07 STR-01 OMB-01 COME-00 TRSE-00 CIEP-01 /069 W

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R 271030Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8328

INFO AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

AMEMBASSY ASUNCION

AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

AMEMBASSY LIMA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, ECIN, BL, UY

SUBJ: VISIT OF BOLIVIAN FOREIGN MINISTER

1. SUMMARY: A FOUR-DAY VISIT BY BOLIVIAN FONMIN GUZMAN CONCLUDED WITH THE SIGNING OF A JOINT BOLIVIAN-URUGUAYAN DECLARATION WHICH DEALT WITH INCREASED TRADE AND TECHNICAL COOPERATION, THE POSSIBLE PROVISION OF FREE ZONE, PORT AND OTHER TRAFFIC FACILITIES TO BOLIVIA AND COOPERATION BETWEEN THE TWO STATES WITH RESPECT TO PETROLEUM PRODUCTS. ALTHOUGH LITTLE CONCRETE OF IMMEDIATE IMPACT CAME OUT OF THE VISIT, THE DECLARATION WAS VIEWED BY URUGUAYAN OFFICIALS AND THE LOCAL PRESS AS A STEP TOWARDS BRINGING ABOUT THE LONG-DESIRED REGIONAL INTEGRATION. THE PRESS HERE HAS BEEN CRITICAL OF THE SLOW PROGRESS MADE BY EXISTING REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS.

2. BOLIVIAN FOREIGN MINISTER GEN. ALBERTO GUZMAN VISITED URUGUAY FEB. 20-24, RETURNING A VISIT MADE TO LA PAZ BY FOREIGN MINISTER BLANCO LAST YEAR. HIGHLIGHTS OF GUZMAN'S

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STAY INCLUDED A VISIT TO THE PRESIDENT WHO WAS VACATIONING

AT HIS RANCH, A BRIEF VISIT IN PUNTA DEL ESTE AND THE
SIGNING OF A JOINT DECLARATION.

3. IN THE JOINT DECLARATION THE TWO MINISTERS STATED
THEIR INTENTIONS TO STIMULATE TRADE BY MEANS OF COMMERCIAL
AGREEMENTS AND BY RECOMMENDING TO THEIR RESPECTIVE
CENTRAL BANKS THAT RECIPROCAL CREDITS BE ADJUSTED TO
MEET NEEDS WHICH MIGHT ARISE FROM EXPANDED TRADE. THEY
ALSO AGREED THAT THE LONG (19 YEARS) DORMANT PERMANENT
MIXED URUGUAYAN BOLIVIAN ECONOMIC COMMISSION BE ACTIVATED.
AMONG THE COMMISSION'S EARLY TASKS WILL BE: A) CONSIDERA-
TION OF A STUDY RELATING TO BOLIVIA'S DESIRE THAT THE
BOLIVIAN STATE AIRLINE EXTEND ITS OPERATIONS TO URUGUAY;
B) PREPARATION OF A SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL COOPERATION
AGREEMENT; AND C) CONSIDERATION OF A STUDY CONCERNING
BOLIVIA'S UTILIZATION OF DUTY-FREE ZONES IN URUGUAY.
THE GOU PROMISED THE USE OF FREE PIER STORAGE FACILITIES
FOR BOLIVIAN SHIPMENTS. IN ADDITION, THE TWO MINISTERS
AGREED THAT APPROPRIATE GROUPS WOULD LOOK INTO THE
POSSIBILITY OF COOPERATION WITH RESPECT TO PETROLEUM, GAS
AND DERIVATIVES AND WITH RESPECT TO THE MOVEMENT OF CARGO
TO AND FROM BOLIVIA IN ORDER TO COORDINATE THE EFFICIENT
USE OF RIVER AND SEA PORT FACILITIES WHICH THE GOU MIGHT
MAKE AVAILABLE TO BOLIVIA.

4. COMMENTS: THERE WAS LITTLE WHICH WAS EITHER CONCRETE
OR OF IMMEDIATE IMPORT IN THE DECLARATION. NEVERTHELESS,
GUZMAN'S VISIT HAD SOME POSITIVE ASPECTS APART FROM THE
CAMARADERIE IT GENERATED. AS FOREIGN MINISTER BLANCO SAID,
URUGUAY IS TRYING "TO CREATE IN OUR AREA A NETWORK OF
AGREEMENTS WHICH, GIVEN THE POSSIBILITIES OF THE AREA'S
DIVERSE COUNTRIES, MIGHT GO ON ORGANIZING THE COMPLEMEN-
TATION OF OUR RESOURCES AND PRODUCTION WITH REALISTIC
JUDGMENT AND MODERN VISION." EL PAIS LIKENED THE MOVE TO
SECRETARY KISSINGER'S "STEP-BY-STEP" MIDDLE EAST POLICIES
AND BOTH EL PAIS AND LA MANANA EDITORIALY SAW BLANCO'S
DIPLOMATIC MOVES AS AN EFFORT TO BRING ABOUT BILATERALLY
THE REGIONAL ECONOMIC INTEGRATION WHICH IS NOT MOVING
AHEAD RAPIDLY ENOUGH THROUGH REGIONAL MECHANISMS SUCH AS
LAFTA.

5. GDS.
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